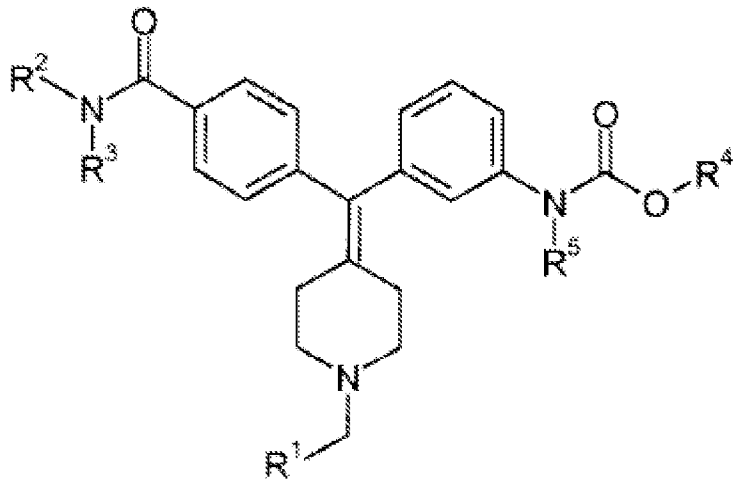
In the Claims:

The current status of all claims is listed below and supersedes all previous lists of claims.

Please amend claims 1-3 and 11-13 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula I, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:



I

wherein

R^1 is ~~selected from~~ C_{6-10}aryl ~~and~~ or C_{2-6}heteroaryl, wherein said C_{6-10}aryl and C_{2-6}heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~-R,~~ $-NO_2$, $-O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, ~~-OR,~~ -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~; and

R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~-R,~~ $-NO_2$, ~~-OR,~~ $-O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~.

2. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is ~~selected from~~ phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; ~~and~~ or N-oxido-pyridyl, wherein R^1 is optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl,~~ $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R^2, R^3, and R^4 are, independently, C_{1-3}alkyl or halogenated C_{1-3}alkyl;

R^5 is ~~selected from~~ hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~and~~ or C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alky and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl,~~ $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is ~~selected from~~ phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; pyrrolyl; ~~and~~ or thiazolyl, wherein R^1 is optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl,~~ -NO2, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R^2, R^3, and R^4 are, independently, C_{1-3} alkyl or halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl; and

R^5 is hydrogen.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl, and thiazolyl;

R^2 and R^3 are ethyl;

R^4 is C_{1-3}alkyl; and

R^5 is hydrogen.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

[3-[[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl][1-(2-thienylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]phenyl]-carbamic acid, methyl ester;

[3-[[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl][1-(2-furanylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]phenyl]-carbamic acid, methyl ester;

[3-[[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl][1-(phenylmethyl)-4-

piperidinylidene]methyl]phenyl]-carbamic acid, methyl ester;

methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[1-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[1 -(1,3-thiazol-5-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. (cancelled).

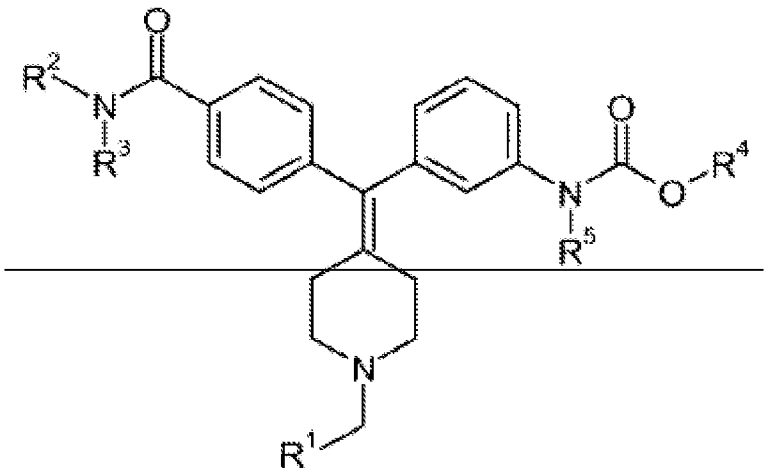
7. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

8. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according claim 1.

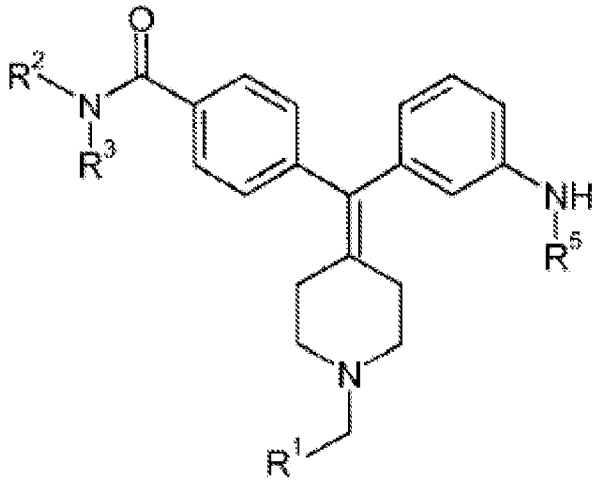
10. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of functional gastrointestinal disorders in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeuticaily effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

11. (withdrawn-currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula I according to claim 1, comprising:



I

reacting a compound of formula II with X-C(=O)-O-R^4:



II

wherein

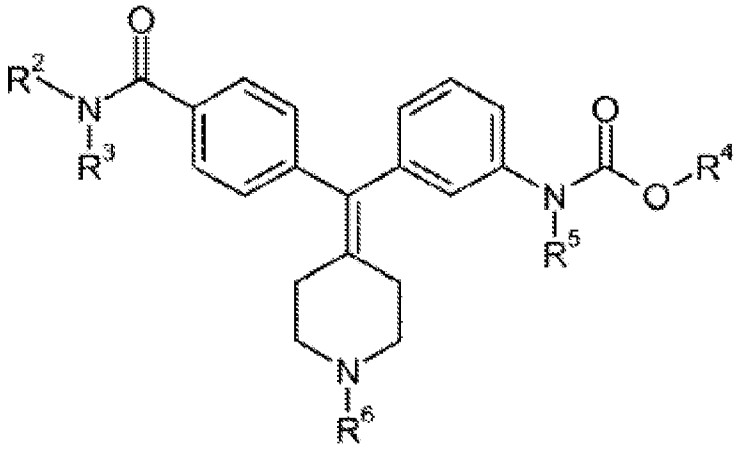
X is Cl, Br or I;

R^1 is ~~selected from~~ C_{6-10}aryl ~~and~~ or C_{2-6}heteroaryl, wherein said C_{6-10}aryl and C_{2-6}heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~-R,~~ $-NO_2$, ~~-OR,~~ -O-C_{1-6}alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR,~~

~~$-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~; and

R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~-R,~~ $-NO_2$, ~~-OR,~~ $-O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~.

12. (currently amended) A compound of formula III:



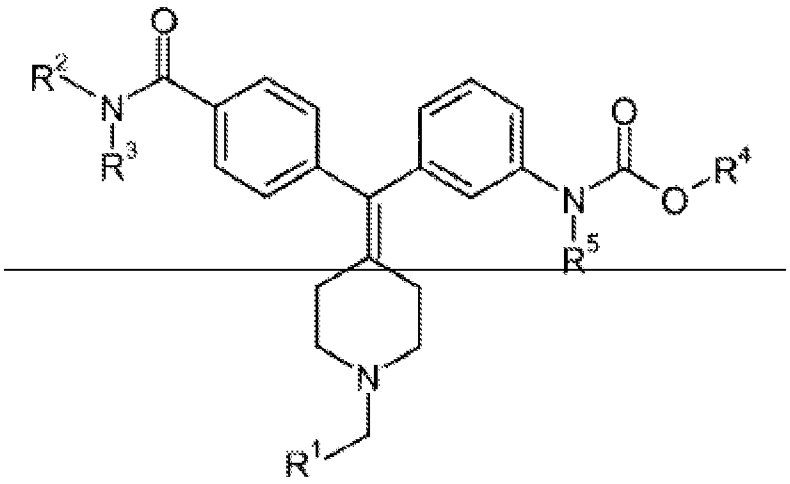
III

wherein

R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, ~~-R,~~ $-NO_2$, ~~-OR,~~ $-O-C_{1-6}$alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, -SO2R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~; and

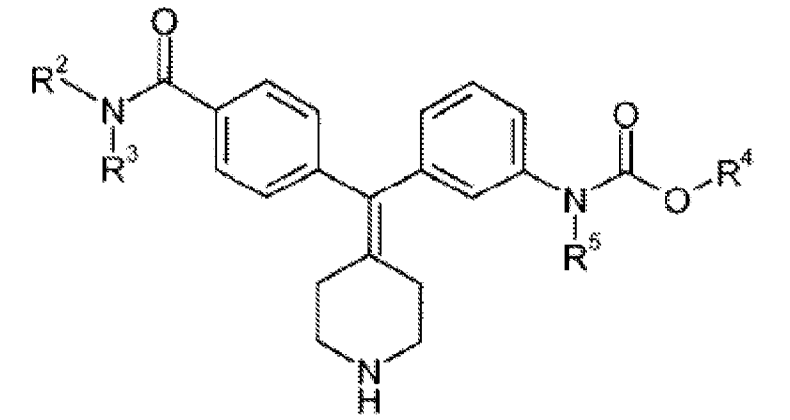
R^6 is selected from -H and -C(=O)-O-C_{1-6}alkyl.

13. (withdrawn-currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula I according to claim 1, comprising:



I

reacting a compound of formula IV with R^1-CHO or R^1CH_2-x:



IV

wherein

X is Cl, Br or I;

R^1 is ~~selected from~~ C_{6-10}aryl ~~and~~ or C_{2-6}heteroaryl, wherein said C_{6-10}aryl and C_{2-6}heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from ~~R,~~ C_{1-6}alkyl, $-NO_2$, ~~-OR,~~ -O-C_{1-6}alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and~~

~~-NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~; and

R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from ~~-R,~~ C_{1-6}alkyl, $-NO_2$, ~~-OR,~~ -O-C_{1-6}alkyl, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, and $-CF_3$, ~~-C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl~~.

14. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 2.

15. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 3.

16. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of anxiety, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

17. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of anxiety, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 2.

18. (withdrawn) A method for the therapy of anxiety, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 3.

19. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 12, wherein the compound is methyl 3-[{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyllphenyl}(piperidin-4-ylidene)methyllphenylcarbamate.